



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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HATIM NAJI FARIZ SENTENCED TO 37 MONTHS

_____ Tampa, FL - U.S. District Judge James S. Moody, Jr., today sentenced Hatim Naji Fariz, age 33, of Spring Hill, Florida, to 37 months' imprisonment and three years of supervised release. On June 21, 2006 Fariz plead guilty to Count Four, which contained charges of conspiring to violate a federal law that prohibits making or receiving contributions of funds, goods or services to, or for the benefit of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), a Specially Designated Terrorist Organization.

On May 1, 2006 Judge Moody sentenced a co-defendant, Sami Amin Al-Arian, to 57 months in prison after he plead guilty to the same charge. The Court also entered a stipulated order of removal, whereby Al-Arian, an alien, will be deported from the United States upon conclusion of service of his term of imprisonment.

Al-Arian and Fariz were arrested in February 2003 following the return of an indictment. Trial commenced before Judge Moody on June 6, 2005 and concluded on December 6, 2005. The jury failed to reach a verdict against Al-Arian and Fariz on nine

counts and acquitted them of eight counts.

Five co-defendants remain fugitives.

In their guilty pleas, Al-Arian and Fariz admitted that they performed various services for the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) in 1995 and thereafter, knowing that the PIJ had been designated as a Specially Designated Terrorist Organization and that the PIJ engaged in horrific and deadly acts of violence. Such services included filing for immigration benefits for individuals associated with the PIJ, hiding the identities of individuals associated with the PIJ, providing assistance for an individual associated with the PIJ in a U.S. court proceeding, mailing packages of tapes to PIJ co-conspirators which contained PIJ - related information, and sending funds to an organization in Gaza which was associated with the PIJ.

This case was prosecuted by Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Terry Zitek and Assistant U.S. Attorney Walter Furr of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida, and Trial Attorneys Cherie Krigsman and Alexis Collins of the Counter Terrorism Section of the Criminal Division. The investigation was conducted by a task force led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with assistance from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Internal Revenue Service and state and local law enforcement officials, among others.

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